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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to Fax No. (703) 872-9310 on November 5, 2003.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Atsushi HAYAKAWA et al.)
SERIAL NO: 10/074,359) Group Art Unit: 1752
FILED: February 12, 2002) Examiner: Hoa Van Le
TITLE: METHOD OF STERILIZATION FOR CONTAINER, APPARATUS
USING THEREFORE, AND HEAT TREATMENT FOR CONTAINER

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2003 having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on November 6, 2003.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner made a restriction requirement, under 35 U.S.C. §121, between Group I Claims 1-8 and 17, and Group II, Claims 9-16. Applicant elects the Group I claims, (Claims 1-8 and 17).

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

November 5, 2003
Date

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